

FIRE AND MEDICAL SERVICES TASK FORCE

East Contra Costa County

April 21, 2016

Dear Community Member:

I am reaching out to you because I know that quality of life in our region is critical to you and your organization. As you may know, two attempts have previously been made to generate new revenue to improve emergency fire and medical services provided by the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District. Since 2012, five of the District's eight stations have been closed due to the loss of property tax revenues caused by the great recession that began in 2008. Both efforts failed, leaving the public vulnerable to inadequate emergency services.

Last year, a multi-jurisdictional task force was assembled to assess the District's funding challenges and develop short and longer-term solutions to enhance service levels. In December, the cities of Oakley and Brentwood and Contra Costa County agreed to dedicate funds to reopen one of the five closed stations for one year, starting later this year in June or July. This funding is one-time funding and will expire in June 2017. The task force is now focused on developing longer-term revenue solutions for the District in order to sustain services well into the future. To help inform the task force, a 10-year Master Plan for the district is currently underway to determine station and staffing needs that would provide adequate emergency services.

This master plan is not complete or published yet but the answers we are seeking will essentially give us options that will involve different sets of service and funding levels. For this reason, we are inviting all members of the community to participate in a series of online forums to learn about current services, tell us what level of service is expected and provide feedback on potential funding solutions.

With that in mind, we have launched our new online public forum for residents' and business' input at www.ourfireservices.org and need your help to spread the word to the community. The forum includes a survey to assess resident and business perspectives on current levels of emergency fire and medical services.

We have also developed a digital graphic video which is included in the www.ourfireservices.org platform to educate residents about current emergency fire and medical services. Please share this video with your Facebook and Twitter followers and email lists as well as on your website and/or blog. Be sure to mention and ask folks to take the online survey. The power of your online networks is a key success factor for us all connecting with community members on this critical public safety issue.

Thank you for your interest in public safety and quality of life in our region.

Sincerely,



Gus Vina
City Manager, City of Brentwood
Fire and Medical Services Task Force Member